

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place from 18th - 25th January. The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity for 2026: 'One hope, one calling' - comes from Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling" (Eph. 4:4).

In a world with diverse and often divided traditions and expressions of Christian faith, Ephesians 4:4 reminds us that all believers are part of the "one body" of Christ.

"Let us embrace this divine calling to unity, not as an abstract ideal but as a vital expression of our faith," invites the theme of this year. "By living in unity, we not only witness to the love and power of our Lord Jesus Christ, but also embody the essence of His teachings."

Leo XIV's Prayer Intention for January

This month, Pope Leo XIV invites us to rediscover the transforming power of God's Word. Along with Pope Leo, we turn to prayer, asking that we might be a Church that "prays with the Word, that is built upon it and shares it with joy, so that in every person, the hope of a new world may be born again." By praying you join millions of people who belong to the Worldwide Prayer Network who, from every corner of the world, are praying for the challenges of humanity and the Church's mission.

Address: St John's Presbytery, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. R95 ND2W

Email: stjohns@ossory.ie **Website:** www.stjohnskilkenny.com

Office: 056 772 1072; **Secretary:** Áine Butler; **Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 9.30 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

Newsletter Deadline: Thursdays 12.00 noon

SVP Help Line: 051 350 725

Monsignor Dan Carroll: 087 907 7769. Fr Tom O'Toole: 087 224 0787.
Fr. Paul Kasu 087 390 5060. Monsignor Michael Ryan (Retired)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Mary Brennan; Jo Browne; Alan Burke; Fr Dan Carroll; Claire Coogan; Fr. Paul Kasu; Luke Leydon; Paddy Manning; Iris O'Flynn; Fr Tom O'Toole; Karena Phelan.

IF YOU HAVE A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN CONTACT

The Diocesan Designated Liaison Person, Ms. Ailish Higgins, 085 802 1633 - dlp@ossory.ie

OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES ARE:

Brenda Whitely; Marian Eardly.

Counselling Services - Towards Healing Confidential Helpline
1800 313 316 - www.towardshealing.ie

Roman Catholic Diocese and Parishes of Ossory - Registered Charity No. 20015831

Kilkenny Medjugorje Group Pilgrimage

Kilkenny Medjugorje Group Pilgrimage takes place from 23rd to 30th September. Price €895 + insurance. There is a €50 discount for those who pay the deposit of €200 before 31st January. For more information or to make a reservation please contact Ann on 086 199 1620.

Leaving Cert Irish Oral Exam Workshop

A three part Leaving Cert Irish Oral Workshop which will cover all elements of the Leaving Cert Irish Oral exam will take place in Gaelscoil Osraí R95 AT85 on the following dates: Thursdays 5th, 12th and 19th March from 6.00 to 8.30pm each evening. These workshops will provide an opportunity for students to learn, prepare and practice for their Leaving Cert Irish Oral Exam. To book or for further information contact tobarnagaeilge@yahoo.com or 087 667 3302 (Maria Ni Thuama).

Poor Clares Galway

Half-day retreat for women from 18 to 35 with Beth Davis of 'Blessed is She Ministries'. This is an opportunity to encounter God's love and deepen your life of prayer and communion with God.

The event will take place from 2.00pm to 6.00pm on Sunday, 1st February.

For more information and to register: <https://cherisheddaughters.eventbrite.ie>

Parish Of

Saint John The Evangelist

incorporating | St John's | Dunmore | Johnswell | church areas

MASS TIMES

St John's - Saturday: 6.00pm (Vigil); Sunday: 8.00am, 11.30am & 7.00pm.

Holy Days: 6.00pm (Vigil); 8.00am, 10.30am & 7.00pm.

Weekdays: 8.00am, 10.30am. (Sat. 10.30am only). **Adoration:** Wednesdays at 11.00am.

Johnswell - Sunday 10.00am

Dunmore - Sunday 11.00am

St. John's Parish, St. Mary's Parish, St. Patrick's Parish, St. Canice's Parish
together form the Kilkenny City Pastoral Area

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - 18th January 2026

Catholic Schools Week 2026

Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration that highlights the contributions of Catholic education to the community. In 2026, the week will run from 18th to 24th January. This year's theme, "Normal Lives, Called to Holiness," encourages students, teachers, families, and parishes to explore the universal call to holiness in everyday life. Inspired by Pope Francis's reflection on Blessed Carlo Acutis this year's theme invites pupils, teachers, families, and parishes to explore the call to holiness as something both universal and accessible. This year's theme resonates with the central conviction that education is a path not only to knowledge and maturity but to sainthood.

"Each of us is called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do." (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, 14).

A Prayer for Catholic Schools

Almighty God,

You sent forth your Son as a beacon of hope for all people.

As a teacher, he has given us the prime example of the importance of education.

As disciples, we look to him for inspiration and strength.

Thank you for the many people who have dedicated their lives in service to our Catholic Schools.

Our teachers and Boards of Management who sustain our schools.

Our parents who have given support and witness to the importance of Catholic education.

Our students who work hard to further their education.

Bless all our Catholic Schools and the many people who advance our mission.

May our schools be a home for those who seek to grow in openness, faith, love, intellect and commitment to justice. In your name, we pray. Amen.

Eastern Environs Group

The Eastern Environs Community Group will resume next Wednesday, 21st January at 2.00pm in the Parish Centre. New members always welcome.

Anam Cara

Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on Wednesday, 21st January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Horse and Jockey Hotel, Thurles.

